UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC

FSIS NOTICE

47-16 | 8/1/16

SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR FSIS SAMPLE SCHEDULING DURING WESTERN LABORATORY RELOCATION

I. PURPOSE

This notice informs inspection program personnel (IPP) and Enforcement, Investigation and Analysis Officers (EIAOs) of temporary changes to FSIS sample scheduling during the relocation of the FSIS Western Laboratory (WL). The WL will not be able to accept sample submissions effective August 20, 2016, until further notice.

II. BACKGROUND

On September 1, 2016, the WL will relocate to new facilities. The relocation is expected to take a minimum of 6 weeks to complete and IPP and EIAOs are not to schedule or ship samples to the WL during this time. IPP and EIAOs will be notified through official communication when the WL resumes its normal operations.

III. IPP RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Effective August 20, 2016, and until otherwise notified, during the relocation of the WL, IPP are to:

1. Schedule and ship samples to either the Eastern Laboratory (EL) or Midwestern Laboratory (ML);

2. Reschedule any samples for the WL scheduled for collection after August 19, 2016, so that the lab capacity scheduler will assign the sample to either the EL or ML for analysis; and

3. Submit all sampling supply requests to EL or ML.

B. During the WL relocation period, IPP are not to schedule or submit any collector-generated samples with the project codes CG_RES_WL, CG_SHOW_WL and CG_MexCat_WL.

IV. EIAO RESPONSIBILITIES

EIAOs are to ensure that Risk-based *Listeria monocytogenes* (RLm) and Intensified Verification Testing (IVT) samples scheduled for analysis by the WL during the month of August are collected and shipped to the WL by no later than August 19, 2016. In situations where an RLm or IVT is scheduled with the WL for completion after August 19, 2016, EIAOs are to contact the EL by e-mail (FSIS – Laboratory Inquiry – Eastern Laboratory) to reassign the samples to another lab. For all other situations, EIAOs are to continue to follow the instructions in FSIS Directive 10,240.5, *Verification Procedures for Enforcement, Investigations and Analysis Officers (EIAOs) for the* Listeria monocytogenes *(Lm) Regulation and Routine Risk-Based* Listeria monocytogenes *(RLm) Sampling Program* and FSIS Directive 10,300.1, *Intensified Verification Testing (IVT) Protocol for Sampling of Product, Food Contact Surfaces and Environmental Surfaces for* Listeria Monocytogenes, for scheduling RLm and IVT samples.

V. QUESTIONS

Refer questions regarding this notice to the Risk, Innovations, and Management Staff through askFSIS or by telephone at 1-800-233-3935 (press 5). When submitting a question, use the **Submit a Question** tab, and enter the following information in the fields provided:

Subject Field:	Enter **Notice 47-16**
Question Field:	Enter question with as much detail as possible.
Product Field:	Select **General Inspection Policy** from the drop-down menu.
Category Field:	Select **Sampling – *General*** from the drop-down menu.
Policy Arena:	Select **Domestic (U.S.) Only** from the drop-down menu.

When all fields are complete, press **Continue** and at the next screen press **Finish Submitting Question.**

NOTE: Refer to FSIS Directive 5620.1, *Using askFSIS*, for additional information on submitting questions.

Assistant Administrator
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